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BARBARA ANTHONY
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NOTICE

To: All Massachusetts ETCs Receiving Federal USF Support (High-Cost and/or Low-Income)

From: Karlen Reed, Director, Competition Division

Date: September 26, 2013

Re: Filings Due to Department on October 15, 2013 – FCC Form 481 Data and High-Cost ETC Affidavit

Background. The Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) has imposed annual reporting requirements on all Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) receiving high-cost and/or low-income support from the federal Universal Service Fund (“USF”).¹ In particular, the FCC requires all ETCs to submit annually an FCC Form 481 with accompanying documentation to the FCC, the Universal Service Administrative Company (“USAC”), and relevant state commissions like the Department of Telecommunications and Cable (“Department”). Although due on July 1 going forward, ETCs must file this information no later than October 15, 2013, for this year’s submittal.²

Filing Requirements. Consistent with the FCC’s requirements, the Department directs all Massachusetts ETCs receiving high-cost and/or low-income support to submit their FCC Form 481s and accompanying documentation to the Department **no later than October 15, 2013**. At this time, carriers need only complete and submit to the Department the sections and supporting information required by the FCC and USAC.³ Carriers should submit concurrently to the Department any revisions to the FCC Form 481 or supporting data filed with USAC and the FCC made subsequent to the filing deadline. In addition, the Department directs Massachusetts ETCs receiving high-cost support to submit the attached notarized affidavit with their filing. The Department will use this documentation as the basis for its annual high-cost certification made to USAC and the FCC.⁴ **Failure to file the required documentation by the deadline may jeopardize a carrier’s ability to receive support.**

Filing Instructions. The Department directs all Massachusetts ETCs to submit unredacted FCC Form 481 documentation to the Department. To the extent that a carrier deems any information submitted with its filing to be proprietary, the filing should include an appropriate Motion for

Confidentiality.⁵ The submittal should include one (1) original, unredacted version and four (4) redacted copies of the filing. Direct all submittals to the attention of Catrice Williams, Department Secretary. Please note that the Department will not grant blanket requests for confidentiality, and carriers should not redact information otherwise available from public sources.

Contact. For questions, clarifications, or additional inquiries, contact Kerri DeYoung Phillips, Counsel, Competition Division, at Kerri.DeYoung@state.ma.us and Sean Carroll, Counsel, Legal Division, at Sean.M.Carroll@state.ma.us.

¹ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

² See *Wireline Competition Bureau Announces Filing Deadline of October 15, 2013 for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers to File High-Cost and Low-Income Annual Reports, and Announces Filing Deadline of December 16, 2013 for States and ETCs to File Annual Use Certifications*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 11-42, Public Notice, DA 13-1707 (rel. Aug. 6, 2013) at 1; FCC Form 481 Instructions (July 2013) (“Instructions”) at 3, 7 (noting the July 1 filing deadline for submittals under sections 54.313 and 54.422).

³ But see *Investigation by the Department on its Own Motion into the Implementation in Massachusetts of the Federal Communications Commission’s Order Reforming the Lifeline Program*, D.T.C. Docket 13-4, Notice of Proposed Requirements and Further Request for Comment (Aug. 21, 2013) (seeking comment on proposed requirements to be imposed on Massachusetts ETCs receiving federal low-income support).

⁴ See 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.314(a), (c), (d).

⁵ See G. L. c. 25C, § 5.